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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria DATE DISTR. 21 January 1953

SUBJECT Organization of Bulgarian Mountain NO. OF PAGES 2
Troops Unit

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCL.
LISTED BELOW

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. About 1949, the Bulgarian Ministry of National Defense assigned Major Penkov the task of organizing a unit of mountain troops. Ivaylo Vladigerov [REDACTED] and Petur Zlatov [REDACTED] were assigned to assist Major Penkov. 50X1-HUM

2. A course to train 12 young officers as instructors was organized in April 1951. The course was held at the Mal'ovitsa Mountain hostel (N4212 E2322) and at Gara Lakatnik (N4305 E2322). 50X1-HUM

3. A committee composed of the three men listed in Para.1, requested that Nikola Shopov, Encho Penkov, and Khristo Borisov, who were serving in the regular Army, be transferred to the mountain troop unit. Penkov and Borisov were transferred to the Ministry of War in Sofia, where, with the assistance of an unknown number of officers who had completed the training course in April, they organized a mountain climbing course for 25 to 30 men. This course was given in the Sini Kanen mountain area (N4243 E2621), above the city of Sliven. 50X1-HUM

4. [REDACTED] a group of soldiers were trained in mountain climbing in the area below Mount Sinanitsa (N4144 E2322), in the Pirin Mountains. Food supplies for this group were taken up to the training area [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

5. The committee mentioned in Para.3 also organized monthly training courses in mountain climbing for civilians, and 12-month mountain climbing courses for military personnel. These courses were to be given at the Mal'ovitsa hostel, and were allegedly to start in the winter of 1951-52. 50X1-HUM

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6. Fifty climbing ropes and 50 mountain picks (possibly the Horeshouski make) were imported [] and were distributed to civilian mountain climbers. Later on this equipment was called in and made available to the committee. A number of portable windproof gasoline stoves, to be used for cooking and heating, have been imported and are being stored in warehouses. The committee is testing various types of sleeping bags, shoes, haversacks, and other clothing items to determine which are best suited for their purposes.

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7. [] the committee is attempting to procure 5,000 alpine picks, 1,000 mountain ropes, 5,000 pairs of climbing spikes, carbide lamps, etc. from outside Bulgaria, since attempts to produce these items locally were unsatisfactory.

8. Because of the lack of equipment and the small number of instructors available (approximately 20), [] doubts that a mountain troop unit will be available

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